Rajasthan Atomic Power Station

5053. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Atomic Energy Act to facilitate entry of private agencies in generating nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Canadian Government have shown interest to invest in the Indian nuclear power sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Canadian Government had decided to discontinue collaboration at the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (BAPS) in 1974;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Union Government propose to provide certain concessions to that Government ; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nulcear power sector. Such offers, when received, have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness and conditions attached thereto. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 will have to be considered at the appropriate time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At Government level there is no such communication so far.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Canadian Government discontinued collaboration unilaterally after the peaceful nuclear experiment in 1974.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Import of Toners

5054. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nexus between importers of toners and the customs officials at the Calcutta port has come to surface wherein substantial loss has been caused to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the racket that has been going on in the import of toners; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In the cases detected and investigated in the Calcutta Custom House, no such nexus has been noticed in respect of Import of toners at Calcutta Port.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Canadian Office in Chandigarh

5055. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canada Government has agreed to open an office in Chandigarh for the convenience of Punjab's travellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the progress made for opening to the liaison office in chandigrah; and

(d) the names of countries which have agreed to open their liaison offices in India during the last three years and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Canadian Government had proposed opening of an office in Chandigarh.

(b) and (c) Government of India had acceded to the Canadian Government's request and a Canadian office opened in Chandigarh in January 1997.

(d) Several countries had approached GOI during the last three years for opening of their liaison offices. GOI had acceded to requests from several countries in this regard details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details regarding countries permitted to open offices in India during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the country	Name of the Office	City
1	2	3	4
(I)			
1.	Burkina Faso	Embassy	New Delhi
2.	South Africa	Consulate General	Mumbai
(II)			
1.	Commonwealth of Dominica	Hony. Consulate	New Delhi
2.	Mexico	-do-	Mumbai
3.	Tanzania	-do-	Mumbai
4.	Canada	Hony. Consulate General	Calcutta

1	2	3	4
5.	Canada	Hony. Consul	Chennai
6.	Nicaragua	Hony. Consul	New Delhi
7.	Austria	-do-	Goa
8.	Comoros	-do-	New Delhi
9.	Seychelles	-do-	New Delhi
10.	Turkmenistan	-do-	Mumbai
11.	New Zealand	-do-	Chennai
12.	Mauritius	-do-	Mumbai
13.	Israel	-do-	Calcutta
14.	Czech Republic	-do-	Calcutta
15.	Kyrghyiz	-do-	Chennai
16.	Costarica	-do-	New Delhi
17.	Chile	-do-	Mumbai
(III)			
1.	Republic of Korea	Trade Office	Chennai
2.	Tzikistan	-do-	New Delhi
3.	Luxembourg	-do-	New Delhi
4.	Netherlands	-do-	Ahmedabad
5.	France	-do-	Bangalore
6.	Austria	-do-	Calcutta

[English]

Indian Mission in New York

5056. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a permanent mission of India is being built in New York;

(b) if so, the original cost estimated and cost escalation at pesent; and

(c) the action taken against the responsible persons for non-implementation of the project since 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The construction of the building known as the Permanent Mission of India building in New York was completed in January 1993.

(b) The original preliminary cost estimate prepared by a local architect in 1981was US $ 5.315 million. The estimated costs at the time of seeking approval in 1988 were projected at US$ 19.023 million. The cost escalation in the final project has been US $ 9.865 million.

(c) The project has been implemented and the Permanent Mission of India Office and residence including residences of Consulate General of India, New York have shifted into the new building.

Water Supply Scheme

5057. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has to provide Rs. 101 crores for water supply scheme in Chitoor district of the State :

(b) if so, the main projects proposed to be undertaken under this scheme;

(c) whether the Union Government have also agreed to provide assistance for implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount provided to the various organisations for completing the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (e) This Ministry is not aware about the provision of Rs. 101 crores for water supply scheme in Chitoor District made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. However, HUDCO has sanctioned 6 projects in Chitoor District for a total project cost of Rs. 66.58 crores including HUDCO loan assistance of Rs. 46.65 crores for the towns of Chitoor, Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Madnapally, Pungnar.

T and D Losses

5058. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether percentage of transmission and distribution loss of power in the country at present is highest as compared to neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of these losses; and

(c) the impediments coming in the way of improving the transmission and distribution system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The percentage of T&D Losses in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India during 1992 are as given under :

Bangladesh	–	39.09
Nepal	–	29.38
Pakistan	–	20.32
Sri Lanka	–	18.26
India	–	21.80

It may, therefore, be seen that percentage T&D Losses are highest in Bangladesh followed by Nepal.